



Notice of Proposed Changes in The Regulations of the Alaska Board of Nursing

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

January 2022

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will this regulation do?

12 AAC 44.290, .305, .400, .800 and .805. Licensure or certification requirements. The proposed regulations will clarify the initial licensure or certification requirements for foreign trained nurses and nurse aides. It will add two additional options for verification of English proficiency and eliminates a time frame for when an English proficiency exam would need to have been completed.

The regulation required applicants to retake an English proficiency exam if they had not passed within the last two years. Healthcare facilities were losing applicants from out of state due to this requirement as nurses did not want to retake an English proficiency exam for Alaska licensure. Thirty-four other states do not have this time frame requirement.

Healthcare facilities will have a larger applicant pool of qualified nurses that won't be deterred by having to re-take an English proficiency exam.

Nurses and nurse aides who have graduated from nursing schools outside of the United States and Canada will still have to meet the same English proficiency standards, however, they will not need to re-take an English proficiency exam once they have passed the exam.

12 AAC 44.312. Temporary military courtesy licenses or certification to practice as a CNA, LPN, RN, or APRN. To implement statutory changes made under Chapter 29, SLA 2021 (SB 21). The proposed regulations will create a temporary nursing military courtesy license or certification for an active duty military member or spouse of an active duty military member of the armed forces of the United States. The regulation allows for an expedited licensing pathway for those in the military and their spouses.

This regulation change will allow military members and their spouses the ability to quickly begin working as nurses in Alaska. Military members and spouses will still need to complete the full application and review process for permanent licensure, however this will allow them an option to begin working while they complete the permanent licensure process.

2. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

\$100 application fee; \$100 temporary license fee; \$75 fingerprint processing fee.

3. When will the regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulations as proposed/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.